

Application No. 09/447,684

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Claims 1-13 and 15-37 are pending in the present application.

By this amendment, the rejected claims 1-13, 18-20 and 34-37 have been canceled, and the objected to claims 16 and 17 have been amended to be in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Craig Plastrik, at 301-601-7252, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,



Craig Plastrik
Reg. No. 41,254

Dated: 9-5-2006

HUGHES NETWORK SYSTEMS, LLC
Customer No. 29158